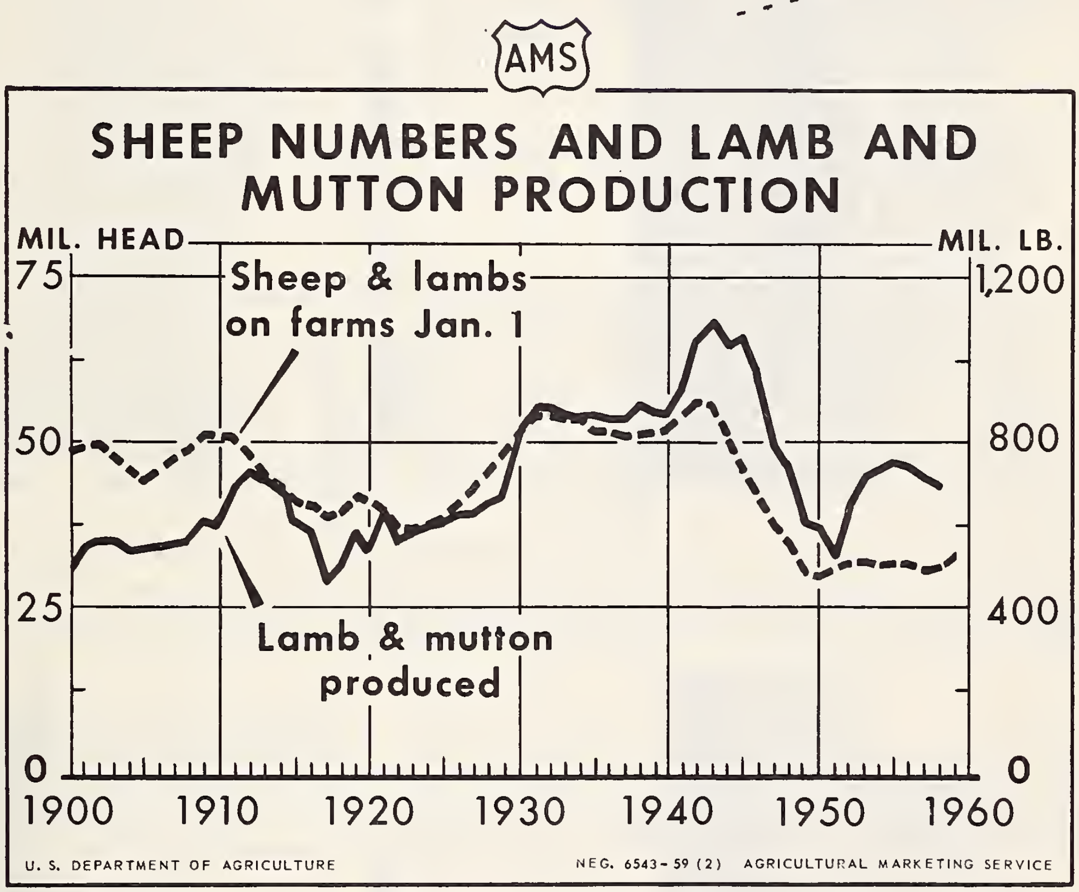
March 1959
FOR RELEASE
MAR. 9, P.M.

The LIVESTOCK and MEAT SITUATION

In this issue:
Rank of States in
Livestock, 1959

LMS-101

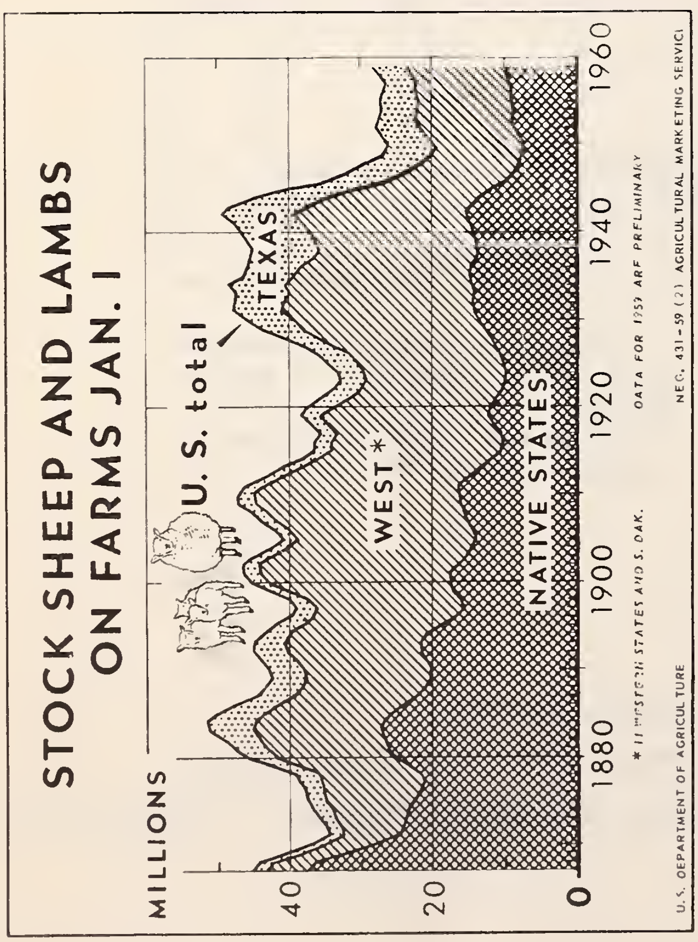


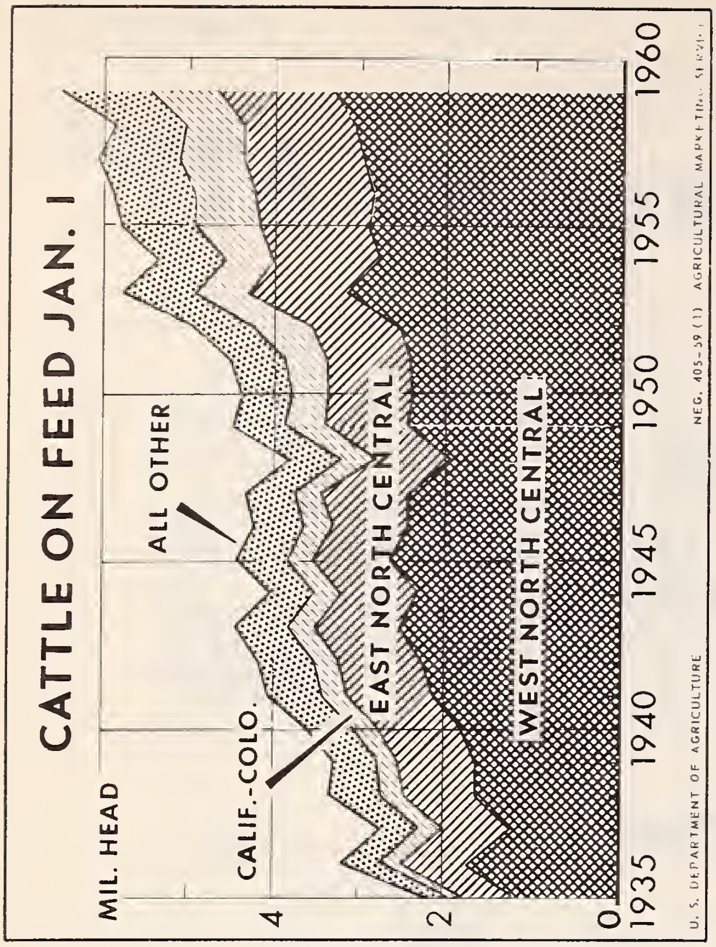
Numbers of sheep and lambs on farms increased 1-1/3 million in 1958 and are now at their highest since 1948. Sheep numbers are still low compared with all years before 1948, however.

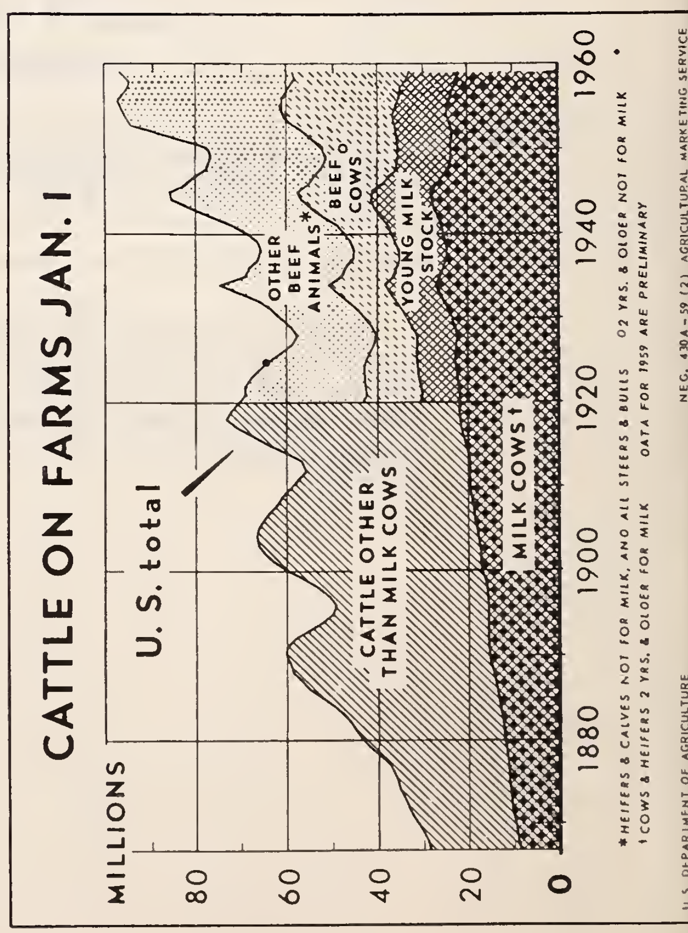
Production of lamb and mutton is down less than numbers, as productivity has increased.

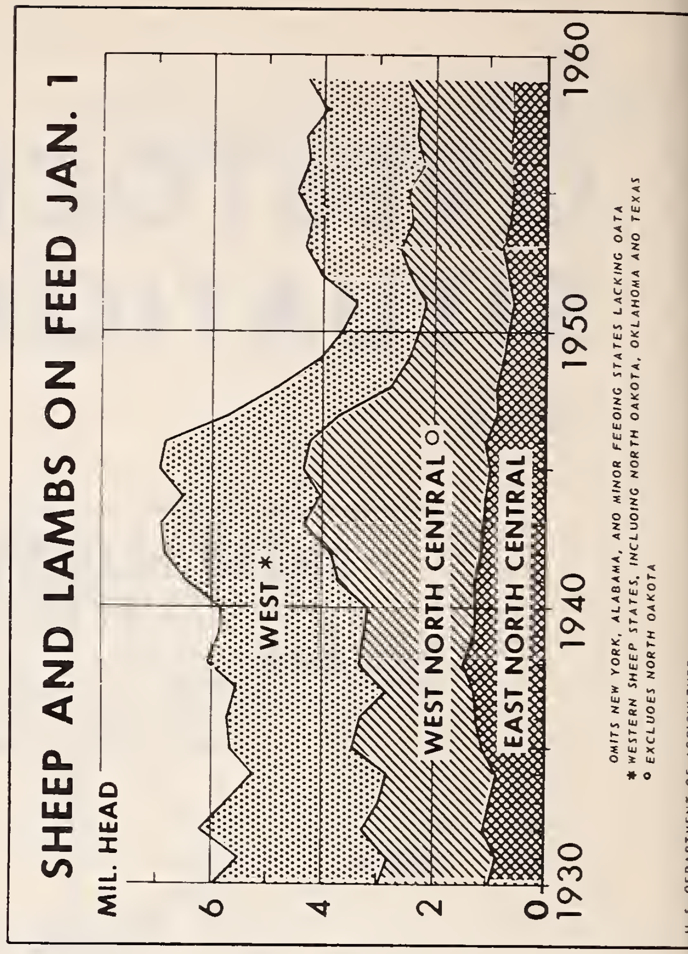
Lamb and mutton output may increase a little in 1959.

Published bimonthly by
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE


STOCK SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FARMS JAN. 1
MILLIONS
40
20
0
U. S. total
TEXAS
WEST *
NATIVE STATES
1880
1900
1920
1940
1960
* 11 WESTERN STATES AND S. DAK.
DATA FOR 1959 ARE PRELIMINARY
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. 431-59 (2) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE


CATTLE ON FEED JAN. 1
MIL. HEAD
4
2
0
ALL OTHER
CALIF.-COLO.
EAST NORTH CENTRAL
WEST NORTH CENTRAL
1935
1940
1945
1950
1955
1960
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. 405-59 (1) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE


CATTLE ON FARMS JAN. 1
MILLIONS
80
60
40
20
0
U. S. total
OTHER BEEF ANIMALS*
BEEF COWS o
YOUNG MILK STOCK
CATTLE OTHER THAN MILK COWS
MILK COWS †
1880
1900
1920
1940
1960
* HEIFERS & CALVES NOT FOR MILK, AND ALL STEERS & BULLS o 2 YRS. & OLDER NOT FOR MILK
† COWS & HEIFERS 2 YRS. & OLDER FOR MILK DATA FOR 1959 ARE PRELIMINARY
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. 430A-59 (2) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE


SHEEP AND LAMBS ON FEED JAN. 1
MIL. HEAD
6
4
2
0
WEST *
WEST NORTH CENTRAL o
EAST NORTH CENTRAL
1930
1940
1950
1960
OMITS NEW YORK, ALABAMA, AND MINOR FEEDING STATES LACKING DATA
* WESTERN SHEEP STATES, INCLUDING NORTH DAKOTA, OKLAHOMA AND TEXAS
o EXCLUDES NORTH DAKOTA
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. 1708-59 (1) AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, March 2, 1959

SUMMARY

An increase of $3\frac{1}{2}$ million head during 1958 lifted the U. S. cattle inventory to 97 million on January 1, 1959. This is about equal to the high mark of 1956. Numbers will almost certainly increase further during 1959, and the inventory next January will be a new high.

This cyclical expansion is not expected to result in any great change in cattle prices in the next year or two, as marketings are not likely to rise greatly during this period.

The inventory increase this January consisted entirely of beef cattle, and chiefly of young beef cattle. The nearly 4 million more beef cattle on farms included 3/4 million more steers, 3/4 million more beef heifers, and 1.3 million more beef calves. Although beef cow numbers were increased 1.3 million, milk cows were down 0.6 million. Total cows thus were up only 0.7 million, less than 1 percent, and are still 2 million below their 1955 high.

The larger inventory is not expected to result in much increase in slaughter in 1959 because more heifers and heifer calves than a year ago will likely be retained for breeding, and many steer calves will be held until next year.

Over-expansion is possible for the longer future. It will be important to watch cattle trends carefully the next year or two. Cow slaughter has been sharply reduced since last July, indicating a considerable effort by farmers to build up herds. If withholding continues at this rate, over-expansion could result.

Cattle slaughter in January and February averaged slightly less than last year despite larger marketings of fed cattle. Prices of fed cattle did not change greatly during the period and about March 1 were about the same as a year before. Prices are not expected to change much until late spring or summer, although they could drift a little lower. A seasonal upturn is likely later in the year.

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Slaughter of hogs will continue substantially above a year ago. Prices are expected to increase seasonally this spring, but will remain considerably below last year.

Sheep and lamb numbers this January were 1.3 million above last January, bringing the increase over the last two years to 1.8 million. This expansion is small compared with the big decrease during the 1940's. Sheep and lamb slaughter in 1959 will likely exceed 1958, but by a smaller percentage than the nearly 20 percent gain in January and February. Lamb prices are expected to improve from their early winter low.

Production of meat in 1959 is forecast at 27.7 billion pounds, 8 percent more than in 1958. Consumption per person may increase about 7 pounds, from 151 pounds in 1958 to 158 in 1959. Nearly all the increase will be in pork. The 1959 consumption rate for all meat remains well below the peak of 167 pounds in 1956.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Livestock Numbers Up

Inventories of all three species of meat animals - cattle, hogs and sheep - were larger on January 1, 1959 than a year before. The increase in hogs was 12 percent, but for both cattle and sheep it was a more moderate 4 percent.

Larger numbers this January were chiefly a cyclical reversal of downturns that started in 1956. Drought and low prices resulted in reductions in all livestock numbers during that year.

Inventory numbers are not yet exceptionally high, relative to population. This is particularly true for cattle and lambs. However, the rather rapid expansion last year may serve as a warning against too rapid further expansion.

The cattle inventory of January 1 was reported at 96,851,000. This is 3.5 million more than a year before and almost exactly the same as the peak in January 1956 (table 1).

Beef cattle numbers were up 4.1 million over January 1958. The inventory of milk cattle decreased 587,000 (table 2). The 21,606,000 milk cows on farms is the fewest since 1921.

1958 Calf Crop Smaller

The larger 1959 cattle inventory was made possible by reduced slaughter and increased imports during 1958. Cattle slaughter was down 2.7 million from 1957, calf slaughter 2.5 million. Imports of cattle and calves increased by nearly 425,000 head. A 1 percent reduction in the calf crop from 40.8 million in 1957 to 40.5 million in 1958 prevented a more rapid increase in the inventory.

Table 1.--Number of livestock on farms and ranches January 1, United States, 1950 to date

Year	Number on farms January 1					Index numbers, by groups (1947-49 = 100)			
	All cattle and calves	All sheep and lambs	Hogs	Horses and mules	Chickens	Total livestock and poultry	Meat animals	Milk cattle	Poultry
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head				
1950	77,963	29,826	58,937	7,781	456,549	100	100	97	102
1951	82,083	30,633	62,269	7,036	430,988	104	105	96	96
1952	88,072	31,982	62,117	6,150	426,555	108	110	95	96
1953	94,241	31,900	51,755	5,403	398,158	109	112	97	90
1954	95,679	31,356	45,114	4,791	396,776	108	111	98	89
1955	96,592	31,582	50,474	4,309	390,708	110	114	96	88
1956	96,804	31,273	55,173	3,928	382,846	112	115	95	86
1957	94,502	30,840	51,703	3,574	390,137	109	112	93	89
1958	93,350	31,337	50,980	3,354	370,884	107	111	91	85
1959 1/	96,851	32,644	57,201	3,079	383,257	112	116	89	88

1/ Preliminary.

Table 2.--Number of cattle and calves on farms and ranches January 1, by classes, United States, 1950 to date

Year	For milk			Not for milk				
	Cows and heifers, 2 years and over	Heifers, 1 to 2 years old	Heifer calves	Cows and heifers, 2 years and over	Heifers, 1 to 2 years old	Calves	Steers	Bulls
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
1950	23,853	5,394	6,208	16,743	4,754	12,516	6,805	1,690
1951	23,568	5,493	6,337	18,526	5,122	14,319	7,029	1,689
1952	23,060	5,694	6,481	20,863	5,971	15,829	8,400	1,774
1953	23,549	5,893	6,479	23,291	6,535	17,440	9,147	1,907
1954	23,896	5,873	6,392	25,050	6,365	17,978	8,229	1,896
1955	23,462	5,786	6,113	25,659	6,514	18,785	8,444	1,829
1956	23,213	5,480	6,044	25,516	6,238	18,979	9,560	1,774
1957	22,916	5,377	5,977	24,754	6,017	18,621	9,105	1,735
1958	22,233	5,297	5,883	24,287	6,063	18,491	9,448	1,648
1959 1/	21,606	5,309	5,911	25,584	6,822	19,755	10,213	1,651

1/ Preliminary.

Numbers Up Most in West

The West contributed nearly all the 1958 increase in numbers of both cattle and sheep. Great Plains States added 9 percent to cattle herds, and the Mountain and Pacific States 5 percent. The Corn Belt from Iowa east increased cattle 2 percent, while the South made no change (table 3).

The West had reduced cattle herds during the drought. Last year, when ranges were greatly improved, cattle were brought in from eastern States to restock. This tended to shift cattle numbers to the West. Eastern cattle numbers also were held down by the cut in milk herds. The largest proportion of milk cattle is in the East.

States east of the Mississippi River increased cattle inventories only 0.2 percent during 1958. Those west of the river expanded 5.9 percent (table 3).

Table 3.--All cattle and calves and all sheep and lambs on farms January 1, by type-of-farming region, 1959 and 1958 with percentage change

Region	All cattle and calves			All sheep and lambs		
	1959	1958	Percentage change	1959	1958	Percentage change
	1,000 head	1,000 head	Pct.	1,000 head	1,000 head	Pct.
North Atlantic	5,288	5,326	-0.7	557	547	+1.8
Corn Belt 1/	29,225	28,568	+2.3	6,780	6,644	+2.0
Plains 2/	26,522	24,385	+8.8	9,568	8,775	+9.0
South-Southeast 3/	18,731	18,794	- .3	2,057	2,124	-3.2
West	17,085	16,277	+5.0	13,682	13,247	+3.3
United States	96,851	93,350	+3.8	32,644	31,337	+4.2
East of Mississippi River	35,336	35,274	+ .2	5,737	5,767	- .5
West of Mississippi River	61,515	58,076	+5.9	26,907	25,570	+5.2

1/ Central Corn Belt and Lake States.

2/ Northern and Southern.

3/ Delta, Southeast and Appalachian States.

Young Stock Increase Most; Beef Cows Up, Milk Cows Down

Much of the increase in cattle inventories January 1, 1959 was in young beef stock. Beef heifer and steer numbers were each up 3/4 million. Beef calf numbers were 1.3 million higher.

The beef cow herd also increased 1.3 million. However, milk cows were off 0.6 million, and the increase in all cows was only 0.7 million.

The composition of the inventory makes it likely that cattle slaughter will hold up well in 1959, or increase a little. However, it does not point to a substantially increased slaughter rate this year.

The 1959 inventory offers the hope that production and price trends may be reasonably smooth and orderly. There are two reasons for this:

(1) The rather large number of young beef stock added to inventories will make it possible to maintain slaughter rates and beef output at a fairly high level. Some of the increased number of heifers and heifer calves will be retained as breeding stock. However, many young cattle will go to slaughter this year or next, often after a period of feeding. On January 1, 11 percent more cattle were on feed than a year before. There is little likelihood that beef supplies will be reduced sharply in this cycle as they were in the last one. The prospect for 1959 is that beef supply per person will be almost unchanged from last year.

(2) On the other hand, no huge expansion in beef production and output is in sight for several years because cow numbers are not yet large. Owing to decreasing cow herds, the annual calf crop decreased steadily from 1954 to 1958. Even though it will probably increase in 1959, it will not be particularly high because the cow herd is still 2 million below 1955. The calf crop will not yet be large enough in 1959 to sustain a significantly higher level of cattle slaughter.

It is entirely possible that prices of cattle, will ease lower in 1960 and 1961. No great reduction is likely then.

A collapse in cattle prices usually comes fairly late in the expansion phase of the cattle cycle. This is true because breeding herds must first be built up, then the calf crop increases, and finally, a year or two later, cattle slaughter expands. The first stage has not yet been fully reached.

This fairly hopeful outlook for a gradual increase in numbers and nearly stable slaughter and prices is based on two assumptions. The first is that range and pasture conditions continue favorable. Widespread drought could stimulate much larger marketings than now are in prospect. Yet, with so much feed in CCC reserves, the worst effects of a drought could be avoided.

Secondly, it assumes that the number of cows will not be built up too rapidly. It will be important to watch cow numbers closely the next year or two. Slaughter of cows under Federal inspection in the first half of 1958 was 16 percent below a year before, but in the second half it was 32 percent smaller. If this rate of withholding continues, the expansion would be greater and faster than now seems probable.

Fed Cattle Prices Limited by Large Supplies

Prices of fed cattle increased slightly in January and February. Their gain was less than a year before and prices by March 1 were about the same as on the same date last year.

Price strength came largely from the reduced slaughter of cows, and from an apparently strengthened demand for beef at retail. Output of fed beef has been above last year. In January, 9 percent more steers were sold at 7 markets than in January 1958. In February the increase was 7 percent. Moreover, weights have been heavier. At Chicago, for example, January-February steer weights averaged 55 pounds above a year earlier.

Largely reflecting the heavy weight of steers slaughtered, the average dressed carcass weight for cattle slaughtered under Federal inspection increased to 607 pounds in December. This was the first time the 600-pound weight had been exceeded on records going back to 1921. The average weight in January was 615 pounds.

Fed cattle for slaughter through early spring will remain large in number and heavy in weight. This will likely keep fed cattle prices under pressure. They are unlikely to increase during that period and might decrease a little. Later, possibly about mid-summer when the bulk of the cattle now on feed has been marketed, a new upturn in prices seems probable.

Hog Slaughter Up; To Stay High

Slaughter of hogs in January was 5 percent above last year, and in February was around 24 percent larger. The February increase was made up almost entirely of hogs from the 1958 fall pig crop, which was 17 percent larger than the 1957 fall crop.

Slaughter will continue at a higher rate than last year and prices will average considerably lower than in 1958. In February, barrows and gilts at 8 markets sold for an average of 15.63 per 100 pounds. $4.50 below a year before.

Prices may slide a little more before increasing seasonally in late spring. Prices will again decline this fall, but extreme price changes for hogs are not in prospect for 1959.

Table 4.--Number of cattle and calves, and sheep and lambs on feed January 1, by regions, 1950 to date

Cattle and calves

Year	Pennsylvania	North Central States			Texas and Oklahoma	Western States		United States
		East North Central	West North Central			California	Other Western	
			3 Corn Belt 1/	4 Plains 2/				
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
1950	88	976	1,491	909	216	196	514	4,390
1951	90	967	1,485	936	239	248	569	4,534
1952	90	1,009	1,510	1,041	241	383	687	4,961
1953	90	1,177	1,845	1,300	263	327	752	5,754
1954	86	1,221	1,675	1,107	199	350	726	5,364
1955	84	1,267	1,780	1,142	200	467	846	5,786
1956	82	1,364	1,806	1,046	214	489	879	5,880
1957	90	1,413	1,911	1,051	218	496	888	6,067
1958	78	1,337	1,943	1,087	163	398	861	5,867
1959 3/	77	1,326	2,066	1,275	228	504	1,013	6,489

Sheep and lambs

Year	New York	Alabama	11 Corn Belt States 4/		Western States 5/	United States
			East	West		
1950	20	---	623	1,649	1,352	3,644
1951	19	---	541	1,571	1,251	3,382
1952	21	---	642	1,761	1,614	4,038
1953	20	---	742	1,890	1,655	4,307
1954	21	---	647	1,763	1,846	4,277
1955	20	---	601	1,853	1,971	4,445
1956	20	42	641	1,562	1,996	4,261
1957	20	23	654	1,687	1,918	4,302
1958	21	6	619	1,732	1,632	4,010
1959 3/	21	---	624	1,904	1,731	4,280

1/ Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri.

2/ North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas.

3/ Preliminary.

4/ North Central States, except North Dakota.

5/ 8 Mountain States, 3 Pacific States, Texas, Oklahoma, and North Dakota.

Sheep Numbers
Rise in West

Numbers of sheep in the 6 Plains States (North Dakota to Texas) were 9 percent greater this January than last. The Mountain and Pacific West showed a gain of 3 percent (table 3).

Because the South reduced inventories, the total number of sheep in States east of the Mississippi River was 0.5 percent smaller in January 1959. The number west of the river was up 5.2 percent.

Recovery of sheep numbers, as of cattle numbers, in western States reflected recovery of ranges from earlier drought. Until 1958, the West had seen its sheep inventories decline for several years.

There is little reason to think the increase in inventories in January 1959 signals a new strong uptrend in sheep production. Much of that increase was for Western restocking. Native (eastern) States failed to show any consistent expansion. Only a gradual further increase in sheep production is to be expected.

Sheep and Lamb
Slaughter Up;
Prices Down

Part of the larger sheep and lamb inventory January 1 was of lambs due for early slaughter, including 7 percent more on feed.

Slaughter quickly became larger. By mid-January the weekly inspected slaughter rate exceeded 325,000 head, the highest rate since January 1954. Combined January-February slaughter was nearly 20 percent above 1958.

Prices of lambs turned down in late October. They leveled out after the first of the year, but had recovered little by late February. At that time they were $4.00 to $5.00 below a year before.

The price break last fall took place before slaughter became large. Unlike the 325,000 weekly rate reached in mid-January, November and December slaughter never exceeded 260,000. Heavier average slaughter weights offset in part the reduction in numbers slaughtered and price discounts for overweights lowered average prices.

Prices of lambs may be expected to increase seasonally the rest of the winter and in early spring. Their 1959 average will probably be close to that of 1958.

Meat Consumption to Rise

Production of meat in 1959 may be about 8 percent greater than in 1958. Most of the increase will be in pork.

The available supplies will probably result in a consumption rate of around 158 pounds per person. This would be 7 pounds more than in 1958 and about 6 pounds above the postwar average. It would remain appreciably less than the 167 pounds consumed in 1956.

Pork consumption is foreseen at about 66 pounds, $5\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, more than in 1958. This is 1/2 pound less than the postwar average. However, demand for pork has failed to increase much in recent years. Because the prospective supply for 1959 is larger, merchandising effort will be required to move it into consumption smoothly--especially since it follows a year of reduced pork supplies.

Beef output for 1959 will likely show a modest gain over 1958 production, but will not differ greatly from 1958 in composition. Consumption per person is forecast at 81 pounds, virtually the same as last year's 80 pounds. As in 1958, an unusually high proportion of all beef will be fed beef, and therefore of the higher grades. Cow beef for processing--including use for hamburger--will continue in relatively short supply.

Output of fed beef in 1958 was largest in the second half of the year. In 1959, it may be largest in earlier months.

Lamb and mutton production probably will be larger in 1959 than 1958. However, it will not be up as much the rest of the year as it was in January and February, when output was boosted by delayed marketings from last fall at unusually heavy weights.

Beef prices in 1959 are expected to be as high as in 1958, and might average slightly higher. Lamb prices also will not differ very much from 1958. Prices for the larger supply of pork will be lower at all times of the year.

Farm-to-Retail Price Spreads Widen Further in 1958

The spread between value of live animals as sold by farmers and the price of meat at retail continued to widen in 1958. The farm-to-retail spread for beef especially increased--from 27.6 cents per retail pound in 1957 to 31.0 cents last year. The spread for pork was up much less, from 27.0 cents to 27.7 cents (table 6).

Table 5.--Production and consumption per person of red meat and poultry, United States, 1956-58 and forecast for 1959

Production 1/

Year	Red meat: Beef	Red meat: Veal	Red meat: Lamb and mutton	Red meat: Pork	Red meat: Total	Poultry meat 2/	Red and poultry meat
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
1956	14,462	1,632	741	11,218	28,053	5,197	33,250
1957	14,211	1,528	707	10,482	26,928	5,458	32,386
1958 3/	13,350	1,200	685	10,525	25,760	6,000	31,760
1959 4/	14,000	1,200	750	11,750	27,700	6,350	34,050
	Consumption per person						
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
1956	85.4	9.5	4.4	67.4	166.7	29.8	196.5
1957	84.5	8.8	4.2	61.5	159.0	31.5	190.5
1958 3/	79.7	6.8	4.1	60.6	151.2	33.9	185.1
1959 4/	81	6.7	4.4	66	158	35.6	194

1/ Production of red meats is carcass weight equivalent of production from total United States slaughter. 2/ Chicken, including commercial broilers, and turkey, ready-to-cook (eviscerated) basis. 3/ Preliminary. 4/ Forecast.

Rising farm-to-retail spreads have nearly equaled the increase in price paid by consumers for meat during the last 10 years. For instance, the average price paid for beef rose from 73.0 cents in 1948-50 to 81 cents in 1958. The price spread widened from 21.3 cents to 31.0 cents, and the net farm value decreased from 51.8 cents to 50.0 cents.

Similarly, for pork, the retail price advanced from 57.5 cents in 1948-50 to 64.8 cents in 1958, the spread increased from 20.7 cents to 27.7 cents, and the farm value, at 36.8 cents in 1948-50, was almost unchanged at 37.1 cents last year.

Table 6.- Beef and pork: Average retail price, farm-retail spread, farm value and farmer's share, 1947 to date

Beef (Choice grade)

Year	Retail price per pound	Farm-retail spread	Net farm value 1/	Farmer's share
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent
1947	61.8	17.6	44.2	72
1948	75.3	22.3	53.0	70
1949	68.4	20.2	48.2	70
1950	75.4	21.3	54.1	72
1951	88.2	22.4	65.8	75
1952	86.6	24.1	62.5	72
1953	69.1	25.3	43.8	63
1954	68.5	24.3	44.2	65
1955	67.5	25.3	42.2	63
1956	66.0	26.2	39.8	60
1957	70.6	27.6	43.0	61
1958	81.0	31.0	50.0	62
	Pork, excluding lard			
1947	60.7	17.9	42.8	71
1948	61.7	20.0	41.7	68
1949	55.8	21.1	34.7	62
1950	55.1	21.1	34.0	62
1951	59.2	22.9	36.3	61
1952	57.5	23.4	34.1	59
1953	63.5	22.5	41.0	65
1954	64.8	23.8	41.0	63
1955	54.8	25.6	29.2	53
1956	52.1	24.9	27.2	52
1957	60.2	27.0	33.2	55
1958	64.8	27.7	37.1	57

1/ Farm value of live animal of weight and grade necessary to produce one pound of meat products at retail, minus computed value of byproducts. Standard factors are 2.16 pounds of Choice grade cattle and 2.13 pounds of live hog.

Compiled from Farm-Retail Spreads for Food Products, Marketing Research Division Misc. Pub. No. 741 and data published in the Marketing and Transportation Situation.

USDA Buys 20 Million Pounds of Pork

The U. S. Department of Agriculture in January and early February purchased 20 million pounds of frozen ground pork for use by schools participating in the National School Lunch Program. Total expenditure, from funds transferred by Congress from Section 32, was $9.3 million or an average of 46.5 cents per pound. Deliveries of pork will be made between February 1 and March 14. Time needed for distribution this school year precludes further purchases at this time.

Wool, Mohair Output Up, Value Down in 1958

Wool production, shorn and pulled, totaled 271 million pounds, grease basis, in 1958. This was 2.1 million pounds or 1 percent above 1957 output. Shorn wool production was up more but pulled wool was down.

The increase in shorn wool in 1958 was due to a gain in the number of sheep and lambs shorn. Fleece weights were lighter, averaging 8.15 pounds compared with 8.25 the previous year. Shorn wool production increased in the West and West North Central States but decreased in all other regions.

Pulled wool production in 1958 was 3.2 million pounds less than in 1957 as sheep and lambs were withheld from slaughter for building up flocks. The average weight of wool pulled per skin was 3.32 pounds, somewhat lighter than usual but approximately the same as in 1957.

The value of shorn wool produced in 1958 is estimated at 89 million dollars compared with 126 million in 1957, as sharply lower prices more than offset the gain in output. The average price received by farmers for the 1958 wool clip (April 1958-January 1959) was 36.9 cents per pound. The price for sales the previous season (April 1957-March 1958) was 54.7 cents.

Last year's mohair production in the 7 leading States was 20.9 million pounds, up 9 percent from 1957. The number of goats clipped and the average weight per clip both showed gains over a year earlier. As with wool, the value of mohair produced in 1958 was down due to lower prices.

The value of production figures do not include incentive payments authorized by the National Wool Act of 1954 to stimulate production. The incentive level is 62 cents per pound for the 1958 wool crop and 70 cents for mohair. It appears that payments may be made for mohair for the first time since the program started. Payments have been made each year for wool.

Table 7.--Production, prices and income from wool, United States, 1950-58

Year	Shorn wool: Number sheep shorn 1/	Shorn wool: Weight per fleece	Shorn wool: Production	Shorn wool: Price per pound 2/	Shorn wool: Value	Pulled wool production
	1,000 head	Pounds	1,000 pounds	Cents	1,000 dollars	1,000 pounds
1950	26,380	8.22	216,944	62.1	134,623	32,400
1951	27,347	8.34	228,091	97.1	221,456	25,900
1952	28,051	8.32	233,309	54.1	126,327	33,600
1953	27,845	8.34	232,258	3/54.9	127,514	42,200
1954	27,692	8.52	235,807	3/53.2	125,538	43,500
1955	27,383	8.55	234,058	42.6	99,813	41,600
1956	28,502	8.37	238,569	44.2	105,544	40,500
1957	28,531	8.25	235,509	53.4	125,732	33,600
1958 4/	29,552	8.15	240,801	5/36.9	88,949	30,400

1/ Includes sheep shorn at commercial feeding yards.
2/ Average price received by farmers for the marketing season April through March.
3/ Includes an allowance for loan wool.
4/ Preliminary.
5/ Computed from State average prices for wool sold April 1958 through January 1959.

Table 8.--Mohair: Production and value for 7 leading States, 1950-58 1/

Year	Number goats clipped 2/	Average clip per goat	Production of mohair	Price per pound 3/	Value
	1,000 head	Pounds	1,000 pounds	Cents	1,000 dollars
1950	2,530	5.2	13,245	76.0	10,062
1951	2,472	5.2	12,892	118.0	15,187
1952	2,287	5.3	12,215	96.3	11,763
1953	2,337	5.5	12,757	87.7	11,387
1954	2,618	5.6	14,578	72.4	10,549
1955	2,983	5.7	16,923	82.2	13,912
1956	3,164	5.8	18,233	84.4	15,383
1957	3,244	5.9	19,058	83.7	15,960
1958 4/	3,437	6.1	20,855	5/67.3	14,036

1/ States are Missouri, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Oregon and California.
2/ In States where goats are clipped twice a year the number clipped is the sum of goats and kids clipped in the spring and kids clipped in the fall.
3/ Average price received by farmers for the marketing season April through March.
4/ Preliminary. 5/ Computed from State average prices for mohair sold April 1958 through January 1959.

Table 9.--Rank of States in number of cattle and calves on farms, January 1, 1959

Rank	All cattle and calves		Beef cattle and calves (cattle not for milk)			
			Total		Beef cows 2 years and over	
	State	Number	State	Number	State	Number
		1,000 head		1,000 head		1,000 head
1	Texas	8,510	Texas	7,402	Texas	3,948
2	Iowa	6,536	Iowa	4,988	Nebraska	1,480
3	Nebraska	4,961	Nebraska	4,364	Oklahoma	1,292
4	Kansas	4,476	Kansas	3,800	South Dakota	1,269
5	Wisconsin	4,254	Missouri	2,897	Kansas	1,137
6	Missouri	4,098	South Dakota	2,893	Missouri	1,119
7	Illinois	4,061	Illinois	2,790	Montana	1,116
8	California	3,978	Oklahoma	2,712	Iowa	949
9	Minnesota	3,973	California	2,479	Mississippi	912
10	South Dakota	3,392	Montana	2,126	Florida	865
11	Oklahoma	3,313	Colorado	1,923	Louisiana	839
12	Ohio	2,367	Minnesota	1,672	California	827
13	Mississippi	2,363	Florida	1,620	Colorado	754
14	Montana	2,269	Mississippi	1,588	Alabama	683
15	Colorado	2,159	North Dakota	1,338	North Dakota	628
16	New York	2,153	Louisiana	1,329	New Mexico	622
17	Indiana	2,107	Indiana	1,318	Illinois	615
18	Florida	2,011	Alabama	1,197	Oregon	537
19	Pennsylvania	1,877	Oregon	1,140	Wyoming	522
20	North Dakota	1,870	Ohio	1,091	Georgia	520
21	Kentucky	1,843	New Mexico	1,085	Arkansas	513
22	Michigan	1,829	Wyoming	1,079	Idaho	389
23	Alabama	1,816	Georgia	1,020	Arizona	373
24	Louisiana	1,808	Idaho	1,007	Kentucky	367
25	Tennessee	1,753	Arkansas	978	Tennessee	365
26	Georgia	1,515	Kentucky	969	Indiana	337
27	Oregon	1,497	Tennessee	853	Virginia	322
28	Arkansas	1,493	Arizona	884	Minnesota	298
29	Idaho	1,414	Virginia	766	Nevada	297
30	Virginia	1,367	Washington	740	Washington	255
31	Washington	1,178	Nevada	559	Utah	248
32	New Mexico	1,162	Utah	545	Ohio	237
33	Wyoming	1,140	Michigan	510	North Carolina	223
34	North Carolina	1,014	Wisconsin	485	South Carolina	182
35	Arizona	971	North Carolina	457	West Virginia	128
36	Utah	720	South Carolina	378	Wisconsin	106
37	South Carolina	613	Pennsylvania	333	Michigan	99
38	Nevada	597	West Virginia	292	Pennsylvania	83
39	West Virginia	541	Maryland	177	Maryland	59
40	Maryland	529	New York	135	New York	39
41	Vermont	423	Maine	26	Maine	9
42	New Jersey	213	Vermont	19	Delaware	7
43	Maine	192	New Jersey	17	New Jersey	4
44	Massachusetts	156	Delaware	15	Vermont	4
45	Connecticut	155	Connecticut	10	Connecticut	2
46	New Hampshire	97	Massachusetts	10	Massachusetts	2
47	Delaware	65	New Hampshire	8	New Hampshire	2
48	Rhode Island	22	Rhode Island	1	Rhode Island	---
United States		96,851		64,025		25,584

Table 10.--Rank of States in number of milk cows and sheep on farms, January 1, 1959 and pigs saved 1958

Rank	Milk cows 2 years and over		All sheep and lambs		Number of pigs saved 1/	
	State	Number	State	Number	State	Number
		1,000 head		1,000 head		1,000 head
1	Wisconsin	2,501	Texas	5,355	Iowa	20,277
2	Minnesota	1,451	Wyoming	2,256	Illinois	11,987
3	New York	1,409	California	1,893	Indiana	7,548
4	Pennsylvania	1,039	Colorado	1,829	Missouri	7,009
5	Iowa	1,035	Montana	1,786	Minnesota	6,749
6	California	945	Iowa	1,613	Ohio	4,653
7	Ohio	857	South Dakota	1,592	Nebraska	4,054
8	Michigan	820	Utah	1,382	Wisconsin	3,930
9	Missouri	811	New Mexico	1,295	South Dakota	2,843
10	Illinois	783	Ohio	1,276	Georgia	2,778
11	Texas	735	Idaho	1,174	North Carolina	2,248
12	Kentucky	628	Minnesota	987	Kentucky	2,019
13	Tennessee	628	Oregon	912	Tennessee	1,964
14	Indiana	531	Missouri	910	Texas	1,777
15	Mississippi	519	Kansas	883	Kansas	1,677
16	Kansas	441	Nebraska	784	Alabama	1,652
17	Virginia	410	Illinois	767	Michigan	1,322
18	Nebraska	392	North Dakota	673	Virginia	1,070
19	Alabama	376	Kentucky	604	Mississippi	964
20	North Carolina	375	Indiana	521	South Carolina	819
21	Oklahoma	370	Arizona	451	North Dakota	806
22	North Dakota	352	Michigan	424	Oklahoma	788
23	Arkansas	326	Nevada	421	Pennsylvania	779
24	Louisiana	321	Virginia	350	Florida	697
25	Georgia	313	Tennessee	303	Arkansas	597
26	South Dakota	306	West Virginia	289	California	567
27	Washington	286	Washington	283	Louisiana	495
28	Vermont	285	Wisconsin	282	Maryland	310
29	Idaho	243	Oklahoma	281	Oregon	296
30	Maryland	243	Pennsylvania	259	Colorado	281
31	Florida	234	New York	189	Montana	241
32	Oregon	215	Mississippi	100	Washington	223
33	West Virginia	180	Louisiana	83	New York	214
34	South Carolina	159	North Carolina	71	Idaho	199
35	New Jersey	148	Alabama	70	New Jersey	190
36	Colorado	147	Arkansas	64	West Virginia	167
37	Utah	112	Georgia	48	Massachusetts	157
38	Massachusetts	106	Maryland	47	Utah	115
39	Maine	104	Maine	43	Wyoming	58
40	Connecticut	103	New Jersey	19	Delaware	56
41	Montana	94	Vermont	14	New Mexico	56
42	New Hampshire	58	South Carolina	13	Arizona	43
43	New Mexico	54	Massachusetts	12	Nevada	31
44	Arizona	53	Connecticut	10	Maine	28
45	Wyoming	40	Florida	9	Connecticut	26
46	Delaware	33	New Hampshire	9	Vermont	18
47	Nevada	18	Delaware	6	New Hampshire	17
48	Rhode Island	17	Rhode Island	2	Rhode Island	11
United States		21,606		32,644		94,806

1/ Total pigs saved from spring and fall pig crops of 1958.

Supply and distribution of meat, by months, October 1958 to date

Period	Commercially produced: Supply: Production	Supply: Beginning stocks	Supply: Imports	Distribution: Exports and shipments	Distribution: Ending stocks	Distribution: Military	Distribution: Civilian consumption: Total	Distribution: Civilian consumption: Per person 1/	Total 2/: Production	Total 2/: Civilian consumption: Total	Total 2/: Civilian consumption: Per person
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.
Beef:											
1958											
October	1,219	123	62	5	137	32	1,230	7.1	---	---	---
November	980	137	55	4	159	26	983	5.7	---	---	---
December	1,092	159	64	4	174	25	1,112	6.4	---	---	---
4th quarter	3,291	123	181	13	174	83	3,325	19.3			3/20
Year	12,989	134	719	47	174	353	13,268	77.4	13,350		3/ 79.7
1959											
January	1,127	174			173	27					
February											
March											
1st quarter											
Veal:											
1958											
October	103	9	1	4/	12	4	97	.6	---	---	---
November	82	12	2	4/	13	3	80	.5	---	---	---
December	83	13	2	4/	16	3	79	.5	---	---	---
4th quarter	268	9		4/	16	10	256	1.5			3/1.7
Year	1,107	13		1	16	44	1,072	6.3	1,200		3/6.8
1959											
January	77	16			15	3					
February											
March											
1st quarter											
Lamb and mutton:											
1958											
October	60	10	2	4/	10	1	61	.4	---	---	---
November	48	10	2	4/	9	4/	51	.3	---	---	---
December	59	9	1	1	9	4/	59	.3	---	---	---
4th quarter	167	10	5	1	9	1	171	1.0			3/ 1.0
Year	675	5	24	4	9	4	687	4.0	685		3/ 4.1
1959											
January	75	9			10	4/					
February											
March											
1st quarter											
Pork:											
1958											
October	933	127	17	11	134	21	911	5.3	---	---	---
November	859	134	17	10	184	13	803	4.7	---	---	---
December	951	184	20	10	206	14	925	5.3	---	---	---
4th quarter	2,743	127	54	31	206	48	2,639	15.3			3/ 17
Year	9,623	194	193	118	206	192	9,494	55.3	10,525		3/ 60.6
1959											
January	965	206			244	14					
February											
March											
1st quarter											
All meat:											
1958											
October	2,315	269	82	16	293	58	2,299	13.3	---	---	---
November	1,969	293	76	14	365	42	1,917	11.1	---	---	---
December	2,185	365	87	15	405	42	2,175	12.6	---	---	---
4th quarter	6,469	269	245	45	405	142	6,391	37.1			3/40
Year	24,394	346	949	170	405	593	24,521	143.0	25,760		3/ 151.2
1959											
January	2,244	405			442	44					
February											
March											
1st quarter											

1/ Derived from estimates by months of population eating out of civilian food supplies, unadjusted for underenumeration.
2/ Includes production and consumption from farm slaughter.
3/ Partly estimated.
4/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	Unit	1958 Year average or total	1958 February	1958 December	1959 January	1959 February
Cattle and calves						
Beef steers, slaughter	Dollars per					
Chicago, Prime	100 pounds	28.92	31.68	28.28	29.80	30.65
Choice	do.	27.42	27.54	27.19	28.13	27.85
Good	do.	25.85	24.93	25.88	26.72	26.07
Standard	do.	23.89	22.55	24.51	25.65	24.65
Commercial	do.	23.35	---	23.29	23.95	23.99
Utility	do.	21.91	20.24	22.45	23.21	22.10
All grades	do.	27.09	26.65	27.01	27.81	27.44
Omaha, all grades	do.	25.59	25.11	25.64	25.99	25 72
Sioux City, all grades	do.	25.69	24.39	26.06	26.60	25.84
Cows, Chicago						
Commercial	do.	19.76	17.81	19.58	20.40	20.11
Utility	do.	18.41	16.80	18.15	19.11	18.86
Canner and Cutter	do.	16.54	15.09	16.65	17.76	17.27
Vealers, Choice, Chicago	do.	32.20	33.05	32.50	32.80	---
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City 1/	do.	25.56	24.35	25.81	26.10	25.97
Price received by farmers						
Beef cattle	do.	2/21.80	20.60	22.30	22.90	22.80
Calves	do.	2/25.00	23.40	27.00	27.80	28.40
Hogs						
Barrows and gilts						
Chicago						
160-180 pounds	do.	19.82	19.03	---	---	---
180-200 pounds	do.	20.82	20.23	18.84	17.40	16.04
200-220 pounds	do.	21.01	20.54	18.72	17.38	16.15
220-240 pounds	do.	20.90	20.44	18.44	17.08	15.95
240-270 pounds	do.	20.50	20.04	17.58	16.55	15.61
270-300 pounds	do.	20.15	19.62	17.00	---	---
All weights	do.	20.28	20.12	18.15	16.66	15.62
8 markets 3/	do.	20.25	20.16	17.86	16.63	15.63
Sows, Chicago	do.	18.18	18.08	14.62	14.04	13.56
Price received by farmers	do.	2/19.90	19.70	17.40	16.40	15.40
Hog-corn price ratio 4/						
Chicago, barrows and gilts		16.8	17.8	15.6	14.2	13.2
Price received by farmers, all hogs		18.6	20.6	17.1	16.1	14.8
Sheep and lambs	Dollars per					
Sheep	100 pounds					
Slaughter ewes, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	7.80	9.50	6.57	6.62	6.88
Price received by farmers	do.	2/ 7.48	8.25	7.18	7.01	7.14
Lambs						
Slaughter, Choice and Prime, Chicago	do.	23.76	24.60	19.81	19.35	19.48
Feeder, Good and Choice, Omaha	do.	22.56	23.33	21.03	19.85	19.72
Price received by farmers	do.	2/20.90	22.00	19.00	18.40	18.10
All meat animals						
Index number price received by farmers (1910-14=100)		334	321	327	328	322
Meat						
Wholesale, Chicago	Dollars per					
Steer beef carcass, Choice, 500-600 pounds	100 pounds	45.05	45.05	45.05	46.69	46.44
Lamb carcass, Choice, 45-55 pounds	do.	48.36	49.78	42.62	40.97	39.25
Composite hog products:						
Including lard						
71.90 pounds fresh	Dollars	22.69	22.37	20.27	19.18	18.07
Average per 100 pounds	do.	31.56	31.11	28.19	26.68	25.13
71.01 pounds fresh and cured	do.	26.69	26.18	24.11	23.14	21.94
Average per 100 pounds	do.	37.59	36.87	33.95	32.59	30.90
Excluding lard						
55.99 pounds fresh and cured	do.	24.25	23.80	21.97	21.14	19.88
Average per 100 pounds	do.	43.31	42.51	39.24	37.76	35.51
Retail, United States average	Cents					
Beef, Choice grade	per pound	81.0	78.4	81.3	82.6	
Pork, excluding lard	do.	64.8	63.1	61.4	61.1	
Index number meat prices (BLS)						
Wholesale (1947-49=100)		107.8	102.4	102.0	103.2	
Retail (1947-49=100) 5/		121.0	116.7	119.9	120.2	

1/ Average all weights and grades.
2/ Simple average.
3/ Chicago, St. Louis N. S. Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, S. St. Paul, and Indianapolis.
4/ Number bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.
5/ Includes beef and veal, pork, leg of lamb and other meats.

Selected marketing, slaughter and stocks statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	Unit	1958 Year average or total	1958 February	1958 December	1959 January	1959 February
Meat animal marketings						
Index number (1947-49=100)		117	100	122	121	
Stocker and feeder shipments to						
9 Corn Belt States	1,000					
Cattle and calves	head	5,692	256	352	1/224	
Sheep and lambs	do.	2,936	121	121	1/86	
Slaughter under Federal inspection						
Number slaughtered						
Cattle	do.	17,642	1,309	1,437	1,441	
Steers	do.	9,840	678	864	808	
Heifers	do.	2,951	245	224	261	
Cows	do.	4,558	365	329	356	
Bulls and stags	do.	293	21	20	16	
Calves	do.	5,672	468	474	424	
Sheep and lambs	do.	12,397	940	1,061	1,322	
Hogs	do.	59,462	4,453	5,814	5,885	
Percentage sows	Percent	9	5	8	6	
Average live weight per head						
Cattle	Pounds	1,018	1,018	1,068	1,073	
Calves	do.	210	202	190	197	
Sheep and lambs	do.	99	104	100	104	
Hogs	do.	238	230	242	241	
Average production						
Beef, per head	do.	575	566	607	615	
Veal, per head	do.	118	111	109	111	
Lamb and mutton, per head	do.	48	51	49	51	
Pork, per head	do.	137	131	138	138	
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	57	57	57	58	
Lard, per head	do.	33	33	35	34	
Lard, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	14	14	14	14	
Total production	Million					
Beef	pounds	10,106	738	868	883	
Veal	do.	667	51	51	47	
Lamb and mutton	do.	592	47	52	67	
Pork	do.	8,110	584	800	813	
Lard	do.	1,982	146	201	201	
Commercial slaughter 2/						
Number slaughtered	1,000					
Cattle	head	23,574	1,767	1,884	1,915	
Calves	do.	9,364	775	758	676	
Sheep and lambs	do.	14,165	1,052	1,215	1,495	
Hogs	do.	70,994	5,421	6,955	7,030	
Total production	Million					
Beef	pounds	12,989	961	1,092	1,127	
Veal	do.	1,107	86	83	77	
Lamb and mutton	do.	675	53	59	75	
Pork	do.	9,623	709	951	965	
Lard	do.	2,254	170	228	228	
Cold storage stocks first of month						
Beef	do.	---	135	159	174	173
Veal	do.	---	12	13	16	15
Lamb and mutton	do.	---	5	9	9	10
Pork	do.	---	218	184	206	244
Total meat and meat products 3/	do.	---	421	419	462	502

1/ 8 Corn Belt States, excludes Iowa.
2/ Federally inspected and other commercial.
3/ Includes stocks of canned meats in cooler in addition to the four meats listed.

LIST OF TABLES

STANDARD SUMMARY TABLES